

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02176 011426Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 (ISO) W

-----041538 020551Z /17

R 011400Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 095

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

47\$(?5/AMEMBASSY RABAT 940

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2176

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EPER, FR, MR

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN MINISTERS ABROAD

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 2097, B. NOUAKCHOTT 2122

1. SINCE COUP D'ETAT JULY 10, EIGHT CABINET MINISTERS AND/OR MEMBERS OF RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY (CMRN) HAVE UNDERTAKEN TWELVE TRIPS TO NEIGHBORING AND ARAB COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02176 011426Z

TO FRANCE AND BELGIUM. ALL HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY BILLED AS TRIPS BY EMISSARIES OF PRESIDENT SALECK TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR COUP AND ORIENTATION OF NEW REGIME. IT IS WEDELY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THESE TRIPS HAVE BEEN DEVOTED AS WELL TO EITHER SEEKING THIRD PARTIES WHO MIGHT FACILITATE PEACE OVERTURES INWESTERN SAHARA OR TO SECURING FINANCIAL

BACKING FOR NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. MOST INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE PROBABLY GIVEN TO MULTI-PURPOSE VISIT TO OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM JULY 17-22 BY FONMIN LAGHDAF. HIS GOAL SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO ALLAY MODERATES' FEARS OF A RADICALIZED MAURITANIA. HE ALSO CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE MADE CONTACT WITH ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE (NOUAKCHOTT 2156) LAGHDAF HAD EARLIER VISITED RABAT ON JULY 14-15, APPARENTLY TO TEST MORTCAN RESPONSE TO GIRM EFFORTS TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM WAR.

3. OTHER TRAVELERS INCULDED LT. COL. AHMED SALEM OULD SIDI, CMRN MEMBER AND MIN OF SUPPLY, WHO HAS TWICE GONE TO BOTH DAKAR AND PARIS. DURING HIS FIRST TRIP, JULY 15-20, HE TALKED TO FRENCH FONMIN GUIRIN-GUAD, AND DURING SECOND TRIP, WHICH STARTED JULY 26, HE MET WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD. CMRN MEMBER AND FINANCE MINISTER SID'AHMED OULD B'NEIJARA ALSO ATTENDED JULY 28 MEETING WITH GISCARD. FOLLOWING MEETING B'NEIJARA DECLARED THAT WHILE MAURITANIA SOUGHT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FRANCE, IT WAS NOT FORESEEN THAT MAURITANIA WOULD REJOIN ZONE. B'NEIJARA HAD EARLIER RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO RABAT ON JULY 23.

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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 02176 011426Z

4. OTHER MAURITANIAN MINISTERS HAVE GONE TO THE MIDEAST IN RECENT DAYS UNDOUBTEDLY LOOKING FOR MONEY TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY RUNNING. BE OULD NE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, WENT TO GULF STATES AND ON JULY 24 WAS RECEIVED BY EMIR OF KUWAIT, TRADITIONALLY MAURITANIA'S BIGGEST ARAB BANKROLLER. CMRN MEMBER LT. COL. MOHAMED MAHMOUD OULD LOULY, WHO IS MINISTER OF INSPECTION AND INVESTIGATIONS, VISITED SAUDI ARABIA FROM JULY 17 TO 22.

5. TWO OTHER EMISSARIES HAVE RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION THUS FAR. SECK MAME DIACK, MIN OF EDUCATION, MADE A TOUR JULY 17 TO 22 OF BELGIUM, FRANCE, MOROCCO AND TUNISIA, WHERE HE TALKED WITH PRESIDENT BOUGUIBA. CMRN MEMBER MAJOR THIAM EL HADJ, MIN OF YOUTH AND SPORTS, RETURNED JULY 25 FROM A VISIT TO MALI AND THEN HEADED OFF TO MOROCCO ON JULY 26, WHERE HE MET BOTH HIS MINISTERIAL COUNTERPART AND KING HASSAN.

6. FINALLY, CMRN MEMBER MAJOR MOULAYE OULD BOUKHREISS WAS IN TRIPOLI JULY 24-27, OSTENSIBLY TO SECURE FURTHER FINANCING, BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE

TALKED WITH A HIGH POLISARIO OFFICIAL (REF B). KRYZA

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